

ENGAGE

from page 1

college to promote it among students,” said Milo Watson, ’26, gear manager of the Outing Club. “I think the only people who are using it are in club leadership positions.”

Watson, who is also the President of Lift Up, a weightlifting club, says that they used Engage but stopped since it seemed like it didn’t make a difference in attendance.

“It didn’t seem like we had any students that showed up because they heard about it on Engage, so we stopped putting stuff up on there because of that,” Watson said.

Stolar encouraged students to reach out if they have any suggestions for Engage.

“Feedback is also a great thing if people want to see something different on the website, or they think it could be structured a little different, and wanting to know if certain features are available,” Stolar said. “That stuff is helpful for me to know.”

Even though Engage isn’t getting as much attention and utilization as Stolar may have wanted, he remains confident that the website will become more successful than it is now.

“I’m being so positive because I wasn’t sure I was doing everything correctly, but it looks like I did,” Stolar said. “All those hours, those late nights worked,” said Stolar.

“

It didn’t seem like we had any students that showed up because they heard about it on Engage, so we stopped putting stuff up on there because of that.”

—MILO WATSON
Class of 2026

Students take to the polls on Election Day



AB SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

Each year, the Andrew Goodman Foundation and the Center for Political Participation — which houses the Law & Policy Program — offer free shuttles to polling stations from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.



AB SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

Donuts, coffee, shirts, stickers and voting guides are available for students who voted. Though the coffee quickly depleted, donuts were available to voters for most of the day.



AB SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

Bloeser talks with a student while the free shuttle idles on North Main Street.



AB SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

Bloeser keeps a watchful eye out for students who need directions to their polling stations. Student also staffed the table throughout the day to assist voters.

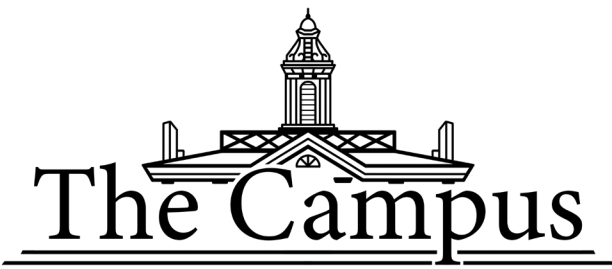
2023 Pennsylvania election results

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
(statewide)
Daniel McCaffery (D) - 53.11% (1,615,006)
Carolyn T. Carluccio (R) - 46.89% (1,426,031)

(within Crawford County)
Daniel McCaffery (D) - 32.91% (6,459)
Carolyn T. Carluccio (R) - 63.84% (12,528)
19,625 ballots cast

MEADVILLE CITY COUNCIL (vote for two)
Autumn Vogel (D) - 50.9% (1,567)
Larry McKnight (D) - 49.18% (1,514)
Bill Lawrence (R) - 48.02% (1,478)
Marcy Kantz (R) - 46.26% (1,424)
3,078 ballots cast

CRAWFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DIRECTOR
(vote for five)
Kevin Merritt (D/R) - 59.49% (4,235)
Jeff Rose (R) - 50.98% (3,629)
Monica Hargenrater (R) - 48.31% (3,439)
Ed Devore (R) - 47.77% (3,400)
Ron Irwin (R) - 47.40% (3,374)
Lisa Whitenack (D) - 42.50% (3,025)
Shanna Hodgson (D) - 40.35% (2,872)
Wallace Mason (D) - 39.52% (2,813)
Bonnie Murphy (D) - 36.77% (2,617)
7,118 ballots cast



Printing Update

Due to Thanksgiving break,
The Campus will not be printing on
Nov. 17, Nov. 24, or Dec. 1.
We will return for the final edition of
the semester on
Friday, Dec. 8.
Thank you, and enjoy the holiday!

PETITION

from page 1

Chief Information Officer Katrina Yeung said that the Information Technology team is making “steady progress” on network improvements and that the initial installation of new access points is complete in residence halls, the Henderson Campus Center and the Pelletier Library.

Robinson shared a list with The Campus containing more than 600 short answers petition signers wrote explaining why they added their name to the petition. Although the list included no identifying information, some signers identified themselves by their titles, which included professors, a football coach, resident advisors, head resident advisors and members of the Allegheny Student Government.

Robinson, who currently serves as a senator for the class of 2024, said that the vast majority of ASG signed the petition, with the exception of four or five individuals who she said are in leadership roles.

“I don’t want to specifically say who it was just because I don’t want them to feel uncomfortable about them signing it or anything,” Robinson said. “But I do know that one person said that if they weren’t in a (position of power) on ASG, they totally would have signed it.”

A respondent who identified themselves as a football coach wrote that they signed the petition because they were frustrated with having to bench some of their star players because of academic warnings, which the coach said were issued due to lack of stable internet.

Robinson said she talked with Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley and Third- and Fourth-Year Class Dean Jonathan May about the petition prior to publishing it. According to Robinson, both were open to exploring whether her request was reasonable and achievable, and that they were supportive overall of the petition’s creation.

“When I approached them (Yeckley) about the petition, they told me that whatever I needed help with that they would try to help and they would help me get in contact with people that need-

ed — that I could meet with to discuss the possibilities and things like that,” Robinson said. “Before they and I could talk about setting up meetings with Financial Services to discuss if it was possible or not, Mr. Binnington kind of swooped in and grabbed me.”

Yeckley acknowledged that they spoke with Robinson about the petition prior to an Allegheny Student Government General Assembly for a “few moments,” but disputed Robinson’s statement that they assisted with the petition.

“As with most student concerns, I offered empathy to the student experience and to students’ right to voice their concerns within the constraints of The Compass,” Yeckley wrote in an email statement. “I didn’t provide assistance with the petition except to pass the petition along to a member of the President’s Cabinet. I was not involved in the creation, distribution, or collection of the petition, and I have not seen any data related to the petition.”

Robinson said that she regularly updated Yeckley with the petition’s most well-written and interesting responses.

While the petition was open for responses, Robinson claimed that May reached out to her directly over email to applaud her efforts.

“He goes, ‘I think this is a great idea,’” Robinson said. “From an administration standpoint, you’d think they’d be like, ‘Hold on. Let’s rethink this.’ But instead they were giving me encouragement and was like, ‘I think this is great. I love the leadership.’”

Robinson could not provide May’s email to The Campus for verification. May denied any involvement with Robinson’s petition.

“Lyndsey Robinson and I have never discussed her petition project via email and I am not aware of what her petition entails and have not seen it,” May said in a Nov. 2 email statement to The Campus. “Because I have never saw this petition before I cannot offer my support for it or comment.”

Binnington reiterated in a Nov. 6

email statement that the college played no part in the creation of the petition.

“By definition, student-led petitions are managed by students,” Binnington wrote. “The College has no role in approving questions or distributing student petitions. While Lyndsey may have spoken to Dean May or Dean Yeckley about the petition, neither they nor other members of the Student Life and Student Success staff provide assistance for student-led petitions.”

Binnington said Robinson shared some of the anonymous short answer responses with him at his request.

“The request to see the narratives was to understand the sorts of issues that students were reporting,” Binnington wrote.

A Campus review of the responses provided by Robinson showed common themes such as seniors struggling to meet deadlines for their capstone comprehensive projects, students being unable to reliably access online therapy or medical resources, professors tiring of the Wi-Fi issues and being unwilling to make accommodations, and general frustration that it appears that the burden of poor administrative decision-making is falling on students.

Additionally, some students expressed frustration that many of the businesses the college partnered with to provide students with reliable Wi-Fi do not have hours extending into the evening when many students do their homework. Multiple students who signed the petition wrote that they have considered transferring or taking a leave of absence until the internet is completely fixed.

On Oct. 20, Robinson said Binnington arranged a meeting with her where he “politely asked” her to take the petition down because it had not been made in accordance with college protocol.

Binnington, however, said he did not ask Robinson to take down the petition.

“I was not aware that the petition had been taken down, and to my knowledge no one asked the student who initiated the petition to remove it,” Binnington

wrote in a Nov. 6 email statement. “I did ask the student to give us a couple of weeks to consider our position before formally submitting the petition, but at no point did I ask that it be removed.”

Robinson said that during the meeting, Binnington also explained that the college did not have the financial resources to accommodate her request.

“Basically the meeting was like, ‘We have thought about doing this, but we’ve put so much money into the internet and the cabling and then we put, like, almost \$100,000 into the Tim Horton’s and French Creek vouchers and we offer Gator Express rides, which use gas,’” Robinson said.

Binnington disputed this claim as well.

“The College has spent tens of thousands of dollars collectively on coffee, co-working spaces, hotspots, ethernet cords, and everything else we have done to try and help students gain access to more reliable internet while the issues with the network persist,” Binnington wrote. “But we did not spend \$100,000 on coffee vouchers.”

Though Robinson’s petition is no longer up, she plans to continue pushing the college by trying to talk with fellow students, professors and media outlets, like The Campus and the Meadville Tribune.

“Now with my petition being taken down, I kind of want to make more of a rise out of it just out of spite,” Robinson said. “Just because we’re trying to tell you there’s something wrong and you’re just trying to diminish the fact, and it’s not useful.”

Network status update

The IT team continues to work on “clean up items,” including running new network cables and investigating individual access points that are not functioning properly, according to Yeung in a Nov. 8 email to The Campus.

Soon, Yeung and the IT team will do a second sweep through campus to tune the access points, which will generate stronger connection signals and prevent

interference.

During an Oct. 30 interview, Yeung urged students to leave the new access points alone, citing an incident in Baldwin Hall two weeks ago when someone unplugged all the new access points that had been installed in a hallway.

The IT team is also replacing all of the core switches in the residential buildings, which Yeung said is complex and can lead to a few minor mistakes.

“We’re taking out all the switches, putting in all new switches, which requires us to unplug everybody’s connection and then re-plug it all back in,” Yeung said. “So in some cases in residence halls, we have missed plugging back someone’s wired connection. If that happens, it was an oversight on our part and we apologize for that. Just put in a ticket and we’ll come back.”

There is currently no timeline for getting the Loomis Street houses online due to the lack of infrastructure installation by Wi-Fiber, the company that the college originally contracted hired to update the campus network before being let go in July 2023.

The college has faced several hurdles in setting up two Starlink satellite dishes that the college acquired in September. Originally slated to create internet hubs in Brooks Dining Hall and the campus center lobby, the technology was incompatible with the areas.

“We very quickly realized we really needed it (Starlink) to get above people’s heads because they’re just a big ginormous magnet essentially, and so it has impact to pacemakers and hearing aids — all medical things, so we just needed to be super careful,” Yeung said.

However, the 150-foot cable the college ordered to replace the default 12-foot cable to mount the dishes on the roofs of the buildings was unable to conduct a strong internet signal. The college is currently working to return the equipment.

ASG

from page 1

Recio Bremer also confirmed reporting last week from The Campus that the General Fund would total \$335,000 for the year, but said that the Surplus Fund was still not known.

During “Adviser Announcements” later in the meeting, Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley added that they “have a pretty good idea” of the size of the Surplus Fund and that they hope it will be finalized by next week’s GA.

“There is a conversation with (Chief Financial Officer) Linda Wetsell about earmarking a percentage of our surplus to a campus project, and she’s waiting to see how much of our surplus will be put to the campus project,” Yeckley told The Campus after the meeting.

Based on ASG’s public financial statements, The Campus has calculated this year’s Surplus Fund to total around \$616,000.

During their report, Vice President Sam Ault, ’26, brought up the disappearance of baskets used to provide free condoms in bathrooms in the Henderson Campus Center.

“Whoever’s making the little baskets that we put the condoms in disappear, just put them back and/or quit making them disappear,” Ault said. “We miss them and we would like them to be there. It looks a lot better when they’re contained in a little basket rather than loose.”

Co-Director of Student Affairs London Dejarnette, ’24, added that two baskets had disappeared this past week alone.

It was not the only time physical contraceptives graced the Assembly. At the end of the meeting, Senator Chezka Therese Quinola, ’27, raised concerns about the variety in condoms provided.

“A lot of them are flavored and glow-in-the-dark,” Therese Quinola said, before being interrupted by laughter.

“My question is, when will like, I guess normal —” she continued, before being interrupted again by laughter from the assembly.

Dejarnette replied the variety was “not ideal,” but that ASG buys the condoms from a distributor and that the distributor

selects the type and variety of the condoms.

“In the form that I fill out, I can put in there, ‘Hey, can you put in less of the funky ones in there,’” Dejarnette said. “But I don’t know if that’s going to actually — I don’t know if that will do anything.”

Attorney General Will Lowthert, ’24, suggested putting in a bulk order for “normal” condoms from the distributor, and Ault ended the conversation there to move the agenda along.

On the agenda for “New Business” was a vote to approve the club constitution for a revived Ski and Snowboard Club.

Taylor McKindley, ’25, represented the club at the GA.

“I’m just trying to bring back the Ski and Snowboard Club to give an opportunity for people to enjoy the sport, whether they haven’t really done it before — you can kind of learn — or for the people that have grown up skiing or snowboarding, to have a chance to come together as a community,” McKindley said.

The constitution was approved by the Senate, though

at least two senators — Class of 2024 President Sasha Hoguin and Class of 2025 President Asaad Bell — voted against the club.

The official vote tally is contained in the meeting’s minutes, which were not posted to Engage by 5pm on Thursday.

Both Holguin and Bell said after the meeting that they voted against the Ski and Snowboard Club because it did not seem to offer anything new to students.

“I feel like those trips can happen through Outing Club,” Holguin said. “I don’t think there has to be a separate club.”

Bell added that he thought Outing Club already hosts skiing and snowboarding events during winter months.

“I have nothing against the club,” Bell said. “I don’t think it warrants an entire club dedicated to it.”

The Ski and Snowboard Club will need to be approved by Senate again at next week’s GA to receive ASG recognition. ASG will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in room 301/302 of the campus center.

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

EDITORIAL STAFF

Sami Mirza	Editor-in-Chief
Anna Westbrook	News editor
Zaynab Jebur	Science/International editor
Sam Heilmann	Opinion editor
Kyle Chandler	Sports editor
Evelyn Zavala Emma Conti-Windle Joseph Klepeis	Staff writer Staff writer Staff writer
Piper Booker	Copy editor
Henry Grefenstette	Editorial cartoonist
Michael Crowley	Faculty adviser

Advertising (814) 332-5386
Editors newspaper@allegheny.edu
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 North Main St. Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

CRIME BLOTTER

Editor’s Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety’s web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation. Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.

October 29, 2023
Disorderly Conduct
North Village II
Referred to Dean

November 1, 2023
Harassment
Phi Kappa Psi
Active Investigation

November 5, 2023
Criminal Mischief
Arter Hall
Active Investigation

Meta's latest scandal

What effect has Facebook had on mental health?

By JANE GRABOWSKI

Contributing Writer
grabowski01@allegheny.edu

Meta, the parent company of both Facebook and Instagram, is currently being sued over their apps' negative effects on children's mental health.

On Oct. 24 a lawsuit was filed in federal court by 33 states alleging that Meta was aware that its apps Facebook and Instagram had addictive qualities and worsened self-esteem. These lawsuits come after a whistleblower released private Meta documents, studies and communications demonstrating that Meta was aware of their site's negative effects on mental health, yet pushed features that exacerbated these effects.

The mental health effects on children shown in Meta's internal studies range from body-image issues, worsened eating disorders, worsened depression, worsened suicidal thoughts, heightened insomnia and a dependency on these sites. Concern about social media dependency is no surprise, as a recent report released by the Pew Research Center determined that about one-third of teens say they use social media "almost constantly," with about one-tenth of teen Instagram users saying they use the app "almost constantly."

Since Meta's apps have been proven to use manipulative features that cause the aforementioned negative mental effects, I have to wonder about another way these manipulative features manifest – through pushing hateful content that radicalizes youth.

“

I don't think the burden of education on this topic should stop at parents. I believe schools should work on conversations and lessons about social media into their curriculum."

— JANE GRABOWSKI
Class of 2024

Known as "the alt-right pipeline," this phenomenon starts with people, particularly teen boys, being shown relatively normal content that gradually introduces "edgy" humor often including racist, sexist or homophobic jokes, and spirals into outwardly hateful and inflammatory content. Facebook and Instagram are known to have this quality, as Meta's algorithm prioritizes engagement over everything else and recommends and shows posts largely based on their popularity.

Divisive content that stirs people's emotions drives higher engagement, so inflammatory posts can be recommended with increasing frequency, causing users to enter echo chambers and become radicalized. Through this method, Facebook preys on children's need for approval and encourages them to agree with the posts they are recommended. Just as some experts have claimed that the "like" button preys on children's need for approval and causes lowered self-esteem, the need to fit in encourages the radicalization of youth.

Additionally, children do not have as developed emotional regulation or critical thinking skills, causing them to be particularly vulnerable to falling into these echo chambers.

Radicalization isn't just a hypothetical on Facebook. In 2021 Meta came under fire for removing safety systems on Facebook that were put in place prior to the 2020 election in order to reduce misinformation. Many, including the whistleblower who released Meta's internal documents, studies and commu-

nications, believe that removing these systems after the election allowed misinformation to spread and made organizing the Jan. 6 riot possible.

With Facebook and Instagram having so many seemingly deleterious effects, experts have begun seeking ways to mitigate harm. The American Psychological Association has released lists of recommendations for addressing the harms of social media, both for parents and legislators. These recommendations cover a range of useful approaches, like encouraging parents to have discussions about what their kids are seeing on social media, pushing governments to fund social media research and pressuring social media sites to remove some features that encourage dependent behaviors. However, I believe there are two places that these recommendations miss.

Firstly, the functionality of reporting and removing structures are greatly in need of rethinking. When something on Meta or Instagram is reported it doesn't just automatically disappear, it must be reviewed by moderators who determine whether or not it violates Meta's community standards. The volume of disturbing, violent, illegal, and hateful content which these moderators must review on a daily basis is difficult and at times damaging for them. Workers have reported experiencing depression and post-traumatic stress after starting this job.

While companies — who are sometimes departments within a social media's business or third-party organizations — will say they allow their employees to take mental health breaks, fear of termination prevents employees from being able to take these breaks as frequently as is needed. Furthermore, outdated systems, pressure to work through queues both quickly and accurately, low pay and uncomfortable office spaces adds to the stressors content moderators experience. Yet still, the amount of harmful content visible to consumers on sites like Meta and In-

stagram every day suggests that more moderators — or improved methods of moderation — are needed.

If we want to prevent some of the worst mental health effects of Facebook and Instagram, content that creates these negative effects — like suicide and self harm content, pro-anorexia content and hate-speech — needs to be removed. With how stressful the content moderation job currently is, I don't believe the system is sustainable; and yet, these jobs are needed to create and maintain a safe social media by eliminating triggering content and misinformation.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that automated moderation is close to being able to efficiently and accurately perform moderation either. The programming and training of automated moderators is going to take more people viewing harmful content in the short-term, and it's unclear when, if ever, automated moderation will be able to account for the context that is so essential in determining if something is hateful or misinformation.

In addition, automated moderators are still inaccurate when flagging violent or self harm related content. They are not anywhere close to where they need to be for widespread use and implementation.

In the meantime, it is necessary that social media companies improve the working conditions, pay, visibility and protections of moderators so that their capacity to safely hire and retain these necessary employees can grow. If these sites are going to be safe for teenagers, effective content moderation is the bare minimum.

The APA has released a list of recommended actions parents can take to protect their children from the negative mental health effects of social media.

These actions include encouraging kids to use social media for social support, companionship, and emotional intimacy, teaching kids to avoid, report and block content relating to self-harm, eating disorders and hate, teaching kids

to not compare their appearances to the people they see online, routine screening for social media dependency, limiting screen time and night-time use of social media, training in social media literacy and some monitoring or discussion about what kids are seeing online.

While these are excellent ideas, I don't think the burden of education on this topic should stop at parents. I believe schools should work conversations and lessons about social media into their curriculum. Almost all of these steps can be integrated into classrooms. Schools are already places where important emotional and social skills are learned, and many teachers take time to explicitly help kids develop these skills.

Social media is here to stay, and kids need as many opportunities as possible to learn safe social media usage. By pushing safe social media practices in the classroom as well as at home, kids who may miss out on lessons in either one of these places can learn in the other.

These lessons could include social media literacy that helps teens spot misinformation and manipulative content, educating about boundaries that could help prevent dependency — like turning off notifications, setting a time limit — and helping people spot content pulling them into depressive or other negative spaces, along with drilling in a regimen of avoid, report, block for content that does encourage self harm, pro-anorexia or suicide. Additional educational places like daycares, youth groups, clubs and libraries should also talk about and encourage these practices when they are able.

The more opportunities kids have to learn about and discuss social media, the more chances we have to help prevent them from incurring the negative mental effects associated with its use. While it's impossible to know how effective these lessons would be, opening a conversation as a society and experimenting with solutions is where we need to start.

Being an Arab-American right now

By ZAYNAB JEBUR

Science/International Editor
jebur01@allegheny.edu

On Oct. 16 an Arab-American of Palestinian origin who was only 6 years old was stabbed to death by his own landlord because he was Arab. He was targeted for a tragedy he did not commit only because he was from the same place as somebody else. In the eyes of the man who murdered him, he's just as guilty of attacking anything associated with the West. It is the same sentiment that motivated the hate crimes against Arabs post-9/11.

As conflict ensues in the Middle East, I feel targeted here in the United States. I am seen as and I identify as an Arab-American and the "Arab" part is especially emphasized when any tragedy orchestrated by Arabs or even Muslims happens anywhere. Somehow, we are all to be blamed for the actions of a few.

When an attack on anything aligned with the West is orchestrated by Arab individuals, we are targeted as an entire group. We are labeled as savages who want nothing more than to terrorize anyone who is not just like us. By "us," I mean the entire population of Arab-Muslims around the world who are seen as unable to comprehend people having different beliefs than them. The problem with this definition is that it is not true at all.

Arabs are people who are like everyone else and their concerns in life are not based on how many non-Muslims there are. Their concerns are their children,

job, health, etc. They are worried about the same things everyone else is.

The problem with defining the Arab individual who's been depicted as very different from a white person is that, in order to give them back their humanity, I have to say they are the same. Life is of course different in different places. The set of values that exist in Arab countries is different from America because it's based on tribal heritage and Islam.

We are seen as primitive people who would never know the meaning of sophistication on our own. It is only when we let colonizers invade our land and attach their model of society and government on us, then we are recognized as people as well. But that is not even concrete, because when any Arab commits a violent act on a major platform, we revert back to Arab, no longer American.

I was born and raised in the United States and know English much better than I do Arabic. I feel very comfortable existing in a Western society. I know American culture, how the government works and the overall lifestyle the best. If you asked me what my national anthem was, I would say the "Star-Spangled Banner."

I do not have a problem with calling myself an American; the problem I have is when my right to claim the American part in "Arab-American" seems to constantly change. When Hamas did what they did in Israel and the media reported on it, I kept seeing the same cruel adjectives over and over again used to de-

scribe not just Hamas, but all Arabs. The Western mindset cannot recognize us as our own people capable of anything that Americans are capable of.

Crimes like these happen because of ignorance and blind language. If we are labeled as all bad in the news because of the lack to distinguish us as individuals, why should someone assume otherwise? It would be much easier and acceptable to do that. How Americans view Arabs is not something that is challenged, so people do not see a reason to change.

For a long time, a person's understanding of Arabs was based off the stereotypes depicted in media like Disney's Aladdin, which included in its original version of "Arabian Nights" the line, "Where they cut off your ear / If they don't like your face / It's barbaric, but hey, it's home." From that, people would assume violence plays a big part in life in the Middle East so much so that cutting off an ear is normal. Further, the merchant was going to cut off Princess Jasmine's hand when she gave the little boy an apple without paying for it.

The solution towards fixing this ignorance problem will take time because it would mean a shift in the western perspective of what the Middle East is. It is not a place that requires all the attention of the world because it is an ill-behaved toddler, it is a place like anywhere else that has its good, bad and ugly. It is made up of numerous religions besides Islam and ethnicities beside Arab that can co-exist.

Join

The Campus
today!

News

Cover events on Allegheny's campus as they happen, through photos and written stories

Features

Examine the little-known parts of the Allegheny community, including club features and other human-interest stories

Science/International

Alternate between exploring STEM news and global stories through conversations with Allegheny experts

Sports

Play ball! Report and analyze the performance of the Blue-and-Gold by attending matches and interviewing players and coaches.

Photography

A picture is worth 1,000 words — and often, the front page!

No experience needed! We'll provide all the on-the-job training you need — all you need to bring is a passion for your community

Email newspaper@allegheny.edu for more information

Annual Women in STEM Conference held on Nov. 5

By ZAYNAB JEBUR

Science/International Editor
jebur01@allegheny.edu

Carr Hall hosted the annual Women in STEM conference on Sunday, Nov. 5. The event lasted all day from 9 am and ended at 6:30 pm.

The event was organized by Emma Cartney, ’24, and Emma Chambers, ’24, who are members of the Society of Physics Students. The conference used to be more about women in physics, but now it has changed to interest a broader audience.

“My biggest goal is honestly visibility of all the cool things women can do in STEM and being able to hear from people at many parts in their career,” Cartney said.

After registration and breakfast in the lobby, the

attendees got to hear about Fulya Kiroglu’s research as an astrophysics Ph.D student at Northwestern University. They also had an opportunity to ask her questions.

Then they got to hear from keynote speaker Nicola Dent, the CEO of Optical Filters, a Meadville-based company that designs and manufactures touchscreens and displays. Dent discussed her experience in business prior to her current work and what her company does.

“When we pull from other groups on campus we raise awareness and help these women through like going to grad school, things that they might not usually get information on,” Chambers said. “Seeing other people in the industry and how suc-

cessful they are, especially Nicola Dent, that was such a great talk, and it was really eye-opening for me and everyone else to see all the possibilities. It’s not always limited to grad school or industry, it’s not limited to those things, it’s to just spread awareness of options that women have that aren’t always communicated to them.”

From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., attendees got to hear from a panel of STEM Allegheny alumni.

After lunch, there was a poster session where Cartney, Chambers, Alexis Pleskovitch, ’23, and Danielle Savellano, ’25, presented their research in the lobby.

At 3 p.m., Juliana Sebolt, ’20, talked about her research as a physics Ph.D school stu-

dent at the University of Pittsburgh.

At 3:30 p.m. Pleskovitch presented on how important female and queer representation is in STEM because the automatic image of a scientist is a male.

“I think it’s very important for women to go to different conferences because it’s a very male-dominated area and so I think it’s very important for women to go out and learn more,” said Anne Moise, ’26. “I think it’s really nice and the second thing that we did with the CEO of Optic Filters, I really enjoyed that one. I really looked forward to hearing the alumni panel talk about graduate school and how they found their program.”

Then the attendees got to decorate the tote bags they re-

ceived in the morning. At 4:30 p.m., Beth Hudak spoke over Zoom about her journey from undergraduate studies to her current job in the Naval Research Laboratory. She discussed what working there is like and answered any questions the attendees had.

After dinner was the final event was a panel of undergraduate students who discussed their college journey so far, their future plans, and any advice they had.

“I’ve always been interest-

ed in the sciences and I want to be surrounded by that culture of women in the workforce,” Savellano said. “When I was growing up, the fields that were the most prominent in my country were medicine and engineering and they were considered to be, at least in my family, the best way for academic and career success, but here were some points where people would say it’s not meant for a woman. Especially in my country where it was a very male-dominated space.”



I've always been interested in the sciences and I want to be surrounded by that culture of women in the workforce."

—DANIELLE SAVELLANO
Class of 2025

Eclipse Glasses: What you need to know before April



ZAYNAB JEBUR/THE CAMPUS Charles Gibson, ’25, Astronomy Club co-president, poses with a pair of eclipse glasses.

By ZAYNAB JEBUR

Science/International Editor
jebur01@allegheny.edu

Skies from the South Pacific to northwestern Pennsylvania will darken due to a total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024.

With just under five months to go, eclipse-watching fans have plenty of time to prepare for the event by acquiring a pair of eclipse glasses.

The purpose of eclipse glasses is pretty simple; they only let through a small fraction of light — enough to see the moon cover the sun, but not enough to do any damage.

The glasses are certified by the International Standardization Organization, which sets guidelines for everything from camera speeds to anti-bribery measures.

“It’s not against the law to have glasses that would not meet this standardization — ISO 12312-2 — but it would be inadvisable not to use that kind of solar filter because it would be dangerous to your eye,” said Associate Professor of Physics Jamie Lombardi. “The basic idea is to protect you from the light so you that you don’t have retinal damage.”

Lombardi added that ultraviolet light from the sun can cause cataracts, a medical

condition where one’s eyes and vision blur and become cloudy.

The solar film on the glasses only allows a little light to get through, so when worn inside under fluorescent light, you see nothing.

“One out of every hundred thousand or so photons gets through — it might be one out of every hundred thousand or one of every million depending on the manufacturer of the solar filter,” Lombardi said. “It’s only when you’re looking at something extremely bright like the sun that you would get any amount of significant light coming through at all.”

Advertise with



Business Card (3.472" x 2.26")

\$50 (1 issue) \$325 (7 issues) \$600 (13 issues)

Large Square (3.472" x 3.472")

\$60 (1 issue) \$400 (7 issues) \$750 (13 issues)

Tall Portrait (3.472" x 6.75")

\$80 (1 issue) \$500 (7 issues) \$900 (13 issues)

¼ page Horizontal (10.75" x 5")

\$100 (1 issue) \$650 (7 issues) \$1200 (13 issues)

¼ page Vertical (5.2917" x 10")

\$100 (1 issue) \$650 (7 issues) \$1200 (13 issues)

½ page (10.75" x 10")

\$180 (1 issue) \$1200 (7 issues) \$2300 (13 issues)

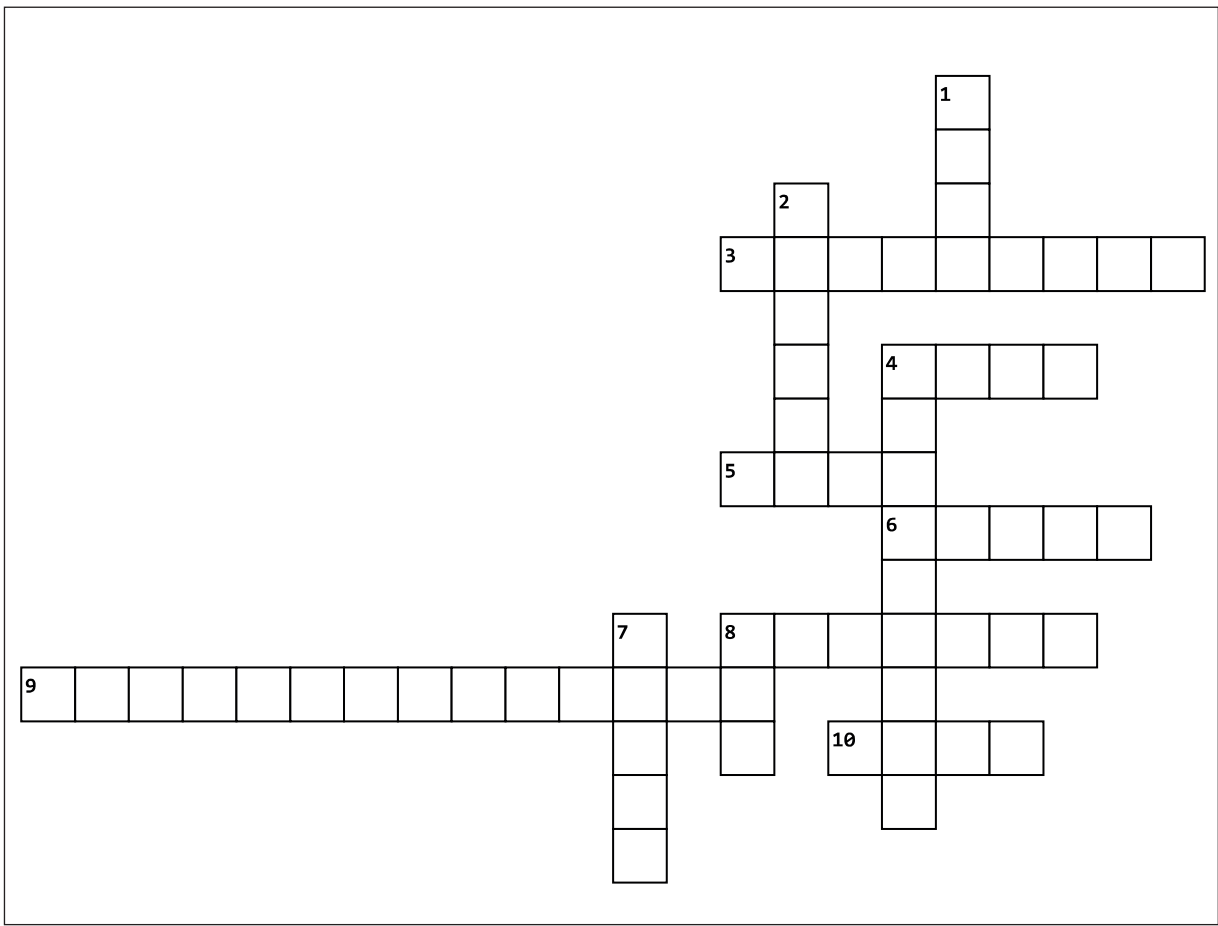
Full page

\$310 (1 issue) \$2000 (7 issues) \$3800 (13 issues)

Guaranteed placement in color with an additional 20% fee
Classifieds are \$0.50 per word with a 10-word minimum

Email newspaper@allegheny.edu for more information

A Crossword about Science



Across

- This rover recently hit 4,000 “sols” on Mars
- Hall that hosted a conference on Women in STEM on Sunday
- CEO of Optical Filters
- An eclipse will cover much of the US in this month of 2024
- A growing number of this age group are being diagnosed with syphilis.
- Meadville firm that produces screens and displays.
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Down

- This state voted to legalize recreational marijuana on Tuesday
- The Euclid telescope was built on this continent.
- A possible result of UV radiation hitting the eyes.
- Oxygen was recently discovered on this Inner Planet.
- International Standardization Organization, for short.

Answer Key

Across

3. Curiosity, 4. Carr, 5. Dent, 6. April, 8. Infants,

9. OpticalFilters, 10. STEM

Down

1. Ohio, 2. Europe, 4. Cataracts, 7. Venus, 8. ISO

Comedy Column

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
Staff Writer
klepeis01@allegheny.edu

The House of Representatives has finally chosen Mike Johnson to be the new speaker. After taking so long he must be a phenomenal person, right?

There’s no possibility he’s anti-abortion rights, against same-sex marriages, or a 2020 election denier, or that he’s a younger, less-known version of Jim Jordan disguised as a polite Southern gentleman. Surely such a divisive figure wouldn’t be thrust into the speakership?

Scottish tennis star Andy Murray, 36, told the BBC he is “not enjoying” his tennis after a loss to 24-year-old Australian Alex de Minaur at the Paris Masters. Murray has faced de Minaur six times and has never beaten him. My advice to Murray is simple: Stop playing de Minaur and I bet you’ll feel a lot better.

The BBC reports that Welsh duo Filkin’s Drift have been walking around Wales, performing nearly 50 shows in local pubs.

They’ve walked over 870 miles with their instruments on their backs. They were inspired by Beyoncé and her use of private jets compared to Chris Martin of Coldplay fame who simply took the train. The duo decided to take the idea of sustainabil-

ity to the extreme.

A fantastic idea and even better message to be sending, but I still think “I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles)” by The Proclaimers is a better song than the yet-to-be-seen “I’m Gonna Be (870 Miles)” by Filkin’s Drift.

The HundrED Innovation Summit 2023 in Helsinki has invited Crawford Central School District Superintendent Tom Washington to speak at the conference, the Meadville Tribune reported on Oct. 31.

“It’s amazing that we were even invited,” Washington said last week regarding the conference. “It’s great publicity for Crawford Central School District.”

I’ve been looking for ways to increase the school district’s popularity in Finland. Glad to hear we finally found a way to do it.

The Apollo Maennerchor Club in Sharon — around 50 miles southwest of Meadville — is haunted. Digital Paranormal Investigations came to the conclusion after a nighttime search of the club on Oct. 27, according to the Meadville Tribune.

Thankfully the team found no evidence of headless apparitions or blood-curdling screams. All the apparitions had proper heads and the screams could be defined as milk-curdling at best.

Club Manager Jeff Zol-

nier and his daughter were cleaning the bar downstairs one night, when suddenly music began playing in the upstairs hall. Upon reaching the hall, the music stopped. Have we considered the ghosts just didn’t want Zolnier and his daughter to interrupt their dance party?

Salon reports that Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s election team admitted to having mistakenly removed roughly 3,400 voters from the state’s voter rolls ahead of the upcoming general election. I’m sure this was an honest mistake. The original number that needed removal was 270. You know how math goes; one, two, skip a few, 3,400. This was in no way, shape or form an infringement on constitutional rights of American citizens — that couldn’t possibly be, could it?

Kimberly Garcia of Team Peru thought she had broken the world record in the 20 km race walk at the 2023 Pan American Games. Unfortunately for Garcia, the course was measured incorrectly, being around three km (1.86 miles) short, according to CNN. In other, unrelated news, the organizers of the event were given a gold medal for the quickest and most hastily set up race. Our condolences to Garcia and congratulations to the organizers of the games.

SEX

from page 1

Trigger Warning: this story contains mention of sexual assault

“I noticed that it was something that they did there and it sounded very interesting so I wanted to bring it here,” Morales said. “I hope it makes it easier for people to vocalize what their needs are and to feel less stigmatized in talking about it and to feel like they can explore more of themselves in a healthy environment.”

Currently, the committee is in its very early stages of planning and is seeking funding from Student Life, according to Morales.

“We’re thinking three to four days of programming and we would like to have it so that in the future, people can have like a whole week or like a month or whatever they would like to do,” Morales said.

Committee Member Mary Boepple, ’25, shared where her passion for sex education comes from.

“I was raped at 10 and molested for about 10 years and I didn’t know what that was because I grew up going to Catholic schools where they didn’t tell you what sex was,” Boepple said. “They just told you that if you have sex, you get pregnant, you get an STD and you die and you go to hell.”

Boepple is currently a social worker who has worked with kids who have experienced similar abuse. Through her passion for sex education,

she wants to give new students who may have come from sheltered backgrounds an opportunity to be a part of an open forum where they can ask questions without judgment.

“I think it would be great for freshmen, I think it’s great for people in all classes because what it does is it gives voice to a topic that as a society we are more open about,” Boepple said. “But we still have a lot of work to go when it comes to topics about consent, healthy relationships, identifying red flags, leaving unhealthy relationships and most importantly, how to move on from negative sexual experiences.”

Through Sex Positive Week, the committee is aiming for a holistic approach by talking about topics beyond sex such as gender and expression.

Committee Member Christopher Culbertson, ’25, shared some brainstorming the committee has been discussing.

“Some of the ideas that we’ve been floating are topics like health and wellness and like walking around activities,” Culbertson said. “We’re also thinking of discussing how to do makeup and stuff, education about asexuality because that is not something that was touched on in my sex education and I don’t know if that is a universal experience.”

Additional topics that may be featured during the week are discussions about body

image, empowerment, recovery from sexual assaults and demonstrating what healthy relationships on campus look like, according to Culbertson.

“I think there is a taboo to discussing sex, not just at Allegheny but just society in general,” Culbertson said. “I think that if we just talked about sex more openly then we could help bring down some of that stigma and have a more healthy and productive conversation about what safe sex looks like.”

Because Allegheny College is a small campus, sex education may be a conversation that is difficult as there is very little anonymity.

“Just talking about sex is hard because everyone here knows each other,” Culbertson said. “I think it can be harder to talk about things with people you know. It’s a problem across all campuses, as sexual assault is a big thing we are worried about, so we just want to create a tighter-knit community here where people are comfortable finding resources to get help.”

In the committee’s future planning, they want to collaborate with other organizations such as the All Gender Equity Society, Why Not Us?, Women in Business and others that surround similar issues they want to present.

“We want to make sex education something that feels safe, destigmatize it, make it more accessible to people,” Morales said.

NaviGator Spotlights

Meet Assistant Dean Kirsten Peterson

By **SAMI MIRZA**
Editor-in-Chief
mirza01@allegheny.edu

Kirsten Peterson is no stranger to Allegheny College. She graduated twice — in 1978 with her bachelor’s and again in 1987 with a master’s in education — and has taught as a lab instructor for organic chemistry. Today, she works from room 261 in the Maytum Center for Student Success as the college’s senior assistant dean of student success for health professions advising.

Peterson’s work focuses on advising pre-health students, which she said extends far beyond students looking to be neurosurgeons.

“That includes medical school, but it also includes all of the other health professions: dentistry, veterinary medicine, PT/OT, athletic training, it just goes on,” Peterson said. “Nursing’s actually a big one right now, physician’s assistant.”

This advice typically focuses on what individual students need to graduate — both classroom requirements and extracurricular work that might be required by students’ individual fields.

“It’s no big secret what courses you need to take,” Peterson said. “But getting experience, how much — and you know, you’ve got people like a pre-physician assistant, folks who, depending on where

they apply, need up to 2,000 hours of clinical experience. And on the other end, you’ve got pre-med students — if they have 2,000 hours, that’s great, but they don’t need that. You need a somewhat different cluster of experiences.”

For first-years, sophomores and juniors, Peterson said her advice is mostly focused on planning out classes, internships and other experiences. Seniors, on the other hand, are more focused on job and graduate school applications, so her work with them includes planning how many schools to reach out to and reviewing personal statements for applications.

“I really like that part of it,” Peterson said of personal statements. “It’s fun; you get to help somebody identify themselves.”

For students not already on the pre-health track but interested in the field, Peterson said that there were many different ways to complete their studies, even beyond college.

“There are actually post-baccalaureate programs that are specifically for people who set out to do something completely different and have now decided medicine is the route they want to take,” Peterson said.

In general, Peterson encouraged students to engage with books and pointed out that around a quarter of the

Medical College Admission Test — or MCAT, used in medical school admissions — tests verbal reasoning and reading comprehension.

“Communication — even if you don’t think you’re good at it or you don’t like doing it — it’s a skill that you just have to have,” Peterson said. “You really need to be able to communicate no matter what you’re going into, including math, and engineering and physics and economics, and all that kind of stuff.”

Peterson also encouraged students to move beyond the classroom and look at internships and jobs.

“Get experience in whatever it is you think you want to do, because you might discover that it is really very different than what you thought it was,” Peterson said. “If you do enjoy it, it helps you keep going when the going gets tough.”

At the end of the day, Peterson said she enjoys working with Allegheny’s pre-health students.

“My colleagues at other schools either have parents that are over involved, have students who are super competitive and just not always that nice to work with,” Peterson said. “I kind of like the student body that we have, which is collaborative and generally has a good sense of humor.”

Advice from Prof. Wilfredo Hernandez

By **THE NAVIGATORS**

What is one piece of advice you’d give to those who wish to take a language or more specifically a Spanish class at Allegheny?

Be active in class and don’t be afraid to speak as making mistakes is part of the process of learning a new language. In addition, use all resources available on campus for language learners: attend professors’ office hours, visit teaching assistants during the office hours, go to the language tables; but also watch series and movies in the language you are studying; and listen to songs in that language as often as you can.

What made you fall in love with teaching a language?

The energy the teaching situation creates. It’s like being in a play everyday; it can be exhausting but I find it very stimulating when I see progress in my students’ acquisition of the language.

Knowing that I am helping others to learn is also a big factor in enjoying my job. Teaching is what I wanted to do since I was in college; it’s a great job if you like interacting with people and continu-

ing to learn about any subject.

What has your career journey looked like? What is one piece of advice you’d give to your past self?

I began to teach in middle school in the 1980s, then taught in high school in the early 1990s, and after my moving to the States in 1993, where I was hired to teach in a high school in Virginia for one year, starting in 1994 at colleges.

I fell in love with languages when I was a teen. I was born in a Caribbean island with a large number of immigrants (Arabs, Italian, Portuguese, etc). I majored in languages and education in college.

When I came to the States, I went to graduate school and got a master’s and doctorate in Spanish. My whole life revolves around international and national cultures.

If I could give advice to my past self I would encourage him to study abroad, ideally in several countries and different languages, something that was not possible for me to do when I went to college. I also would recommend him to explore the possibilities of working abroad in a job where you would be expected to interact with people.



HERNANDEZ

Anything you want students at Allegheny to know about you, your department, or anything else?

I would like Allegheny students to know that although World Languages and Cultures is a small department, we are mighty in our willingness to serve them. I have had the privilege of observing classes by several of my current colleagues; they are terrific teachers. You are going to learn to speak a language from day 1 and you are going to become familiar with cultures where that language is spoken. I assure you you will become a more open person and more curious about the world.

Time capsule discovered in rubble of Caflisch Hall

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
Contributing Writer
kageni01@allegheny.edu

A sturdy, metal box sits leisurely in the Office of Marketing and Communication waiting patiently for its relocation to the Allegheny Archives. It is the newly-excavated Caflisch Time Capsule, discovered during the demolition of Caflisch Hall, which used to house upperclassmen and was known for its complex layout and floor plans.

Now, after the dust has settled, the capsule begins another life unearthed; open for its contents to tell the story of another time. While the contents of the capsule are to be admired, the case being intact after surviving a building demolition is a marvel in itself. Nearly 100 years old to the date it was open, papers in-



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The Caflisch Time Capsule is currently being held in the 454 House with the college’s Office of Marketing and Communication.

side record Meadville and Allegheny College events from June to October 1928.

It also comes complete with building plans for Caflisch and Arter Hall, Meadville city meeting minutes, and a 1927-28 catalog for the Allegheny academic year. The Tribune Republican, a local Meadville publication, even states the weather for Oct. 27, 1928; “Slightly warmer today, rain tonight; fair sun.”

Included are four issues of The Campus, dating back to 1928, detailing stories, events and happenings at Allegheny. In the edition from Oct. 10, the reader is introduced to some new friendly faces within the faculty. “Careers and experiences of new members are quite interesting,” the story says as it introduces Anna Schafheitlin, an associate professor of German, and Horace Lavelly, an

assistant professor of philosophy and education and 1912 graduate of Allegheny College.

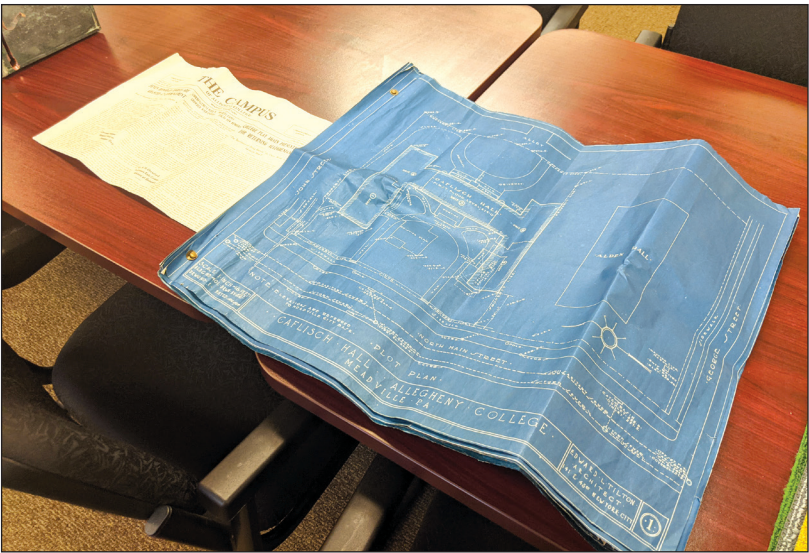
The issue also details the proposal of a campus bookstore by Professor Emeritus of English Stanley S. Swartley. He noted the lack of enthusiasm students had when it came to reading and named some favorite pastimes of 1920s college students; objects like a “talking machine, a radio set, ill-assorted pictures and photo sets, college pillows and a pitifully small row of dull, drab textbooks” taking up the time of students shares some comical similarities to the pastimes of students today. This just goes to show as much as things change, the more they stay the same in some way or another.

Another story features a student raving about the newly implemented dishware to the campus dining halls. “Then, again, these dishes are thick, let alone hard and stony, and won’t break,” the student said. “When a fellow goes to knife a steak, even if he does make a bad slip and the dish falls to the floor, it won’t break.”

The Tribune Republican also detailed international relations and news from other media outlets. An Associated Press story recounts statements from then-U.K Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin amidst accusations of trying to outperform the U.S Navy.

Another story commemorates the events of a birthday celebration for 26th U.S President Theodore Roosevelt at his gravesite, who would have turned 70 that year.

The economic differences can also be seen in this paper’s adver-



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

A copy of the original blueprints for Caflisch Hall, next to a copy of The Campus from June 1928.

tisement section, with one setting the price of a six-bedroom house at \$8,500.

In addition to the many stories and anecdotes from the newspapers, there also were three significant booklets; one that kept the minutes of a Meadville city annual meeting from June 11, 1928, a Allegheny charter from 1923, and a catalogue of Allegheny from the 1927-28 school year.

The Allegheny catalogue provided a description and inventory of the Reis Library, which had been in operation for over 25 years at that time. The building is noted for its Italian Renaissance style and terracotta trimmings, but the catalogue explained that extensive repairs had taken place in the past year. The library boasted a collection of 70,000 books and was described as “for many years, the best west of the Alleghenies.”

Some of the courses listed for the school year included Advanced

Latin Composition — specifically aimed toward graduate students — Roman History, Topography and Architecture, and Mathematics of Finance.

Time travel as we know it is impossible even with the scientific advancements we have today. However, with this time capsule, a small sliver of the past has been preserved for us to examine. We can travel through time to reflect on the world that we once inhabited for all its flaws and triumphs.

Whether it be celebrating the new addition of sturdier dinner plates in dining halls or congratulating new staff members on their induction to Allegheny College faculty, we can also recognize how similar our lives are to the people who came before us. Because of the discovery of the capsule under Caflisch Hall, the lives of the individuals who inhabited the same halls students, staff and faculty walk through today can be remembered once more.

AGES holds “Gender Affirming Closet” event

By **SAM HEILMANN**
Opinion Editor
heilmann01@allegheny.edu

On Saturday, Nov. 4, a line of tables in the Schultz East Alcove featured an array of neatly-folded clothing organized by size. In the center of one of the tables was a selection of binder tops as well as a stack of canvas tote bags for attendees to use while shopping. The event, a gender-affirming closet hosted by All Gender Equity Society, was free and open to all students, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees could bring clothing of their own to donate or to take what they wanted from the selection.

AGES President Cam Leshner, ’24, said that the closet event helps to ful-

fill the mission of AGES in providing accessible outlets for gender expression while remaining a resource for the broader campus community.

“I think that one, it fits within our mission for providing an exploration of gender expression and gender identity,” Leshner said. “But also, there are lots of students on this campus that might not have the opportunity to go shopping for clothes or might not have the ability to get things that are warmer for the winter.”

AGES hosted a similar closet event last semester at French Creek Coffee and Tea in Meadville and was in partnership with the Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program. In addition to CHAPS, AGES has collaborated with a number of clubs on campus to bring the



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

AGES President Cam Leshner, ’24, (left) speaks with Noelle Mertz-Bruce, ’23, during the Gender Affirming Closet event hosted by AGES.

closet event to students, including the college chapter of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology and Students for Environmental Action.

“We’re looking forward to more collaborations,” Leshner said. “I’m just always nervous to set up collaborations if we aren’t going to have a decent attendance.”

Attendance at Saturday’s closet event was minimal, but Leshner explained that there are a number of reasons why the event would turn out low numbers, despite students voicing a high level of interest.

“I feel like sometimes people are a little nervous about coming in because they don’t want to do it around a lot of people, or they’re just busy during the times that we normally meet, or when we organize the

events,” Leshner said. “So we’re going to continue doing them, but we might change the ways in which we do them or the times that we do it.”

People filtered in and out of the event throughout the day, and a significant amount of clothing was gone by 1 p.m. Leshner suggested in an interview earlier that day that the wide variety of clothing would hopefully help students find something that matches what they are looking to express.

“I’m really happy because we keep getting a lot more clothes, a lot of different kinds of expression, and we have a decent size range,” Leshner said.

One of the attendees was August McCannon, ’25, who has worked with AGES in the past as a board member and was excited to see variety in the clothing options.

“It’s nice that there’s an event where people can come get clothing that is gender affirming,” McCannon said.

Leshner said that AGES is looking to have at least one more closet event next semester, and that the future of the event and the club as a whole is up in the air given how many seniors are on board.

“I plan to at least have one at the start or beginning of next semester,” Leshner said. “I might move over to doing some sort of form that someone can submit and then we’ll just organize a private time for them to go through things.”



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Some of the clothes available at AGES’ Gender-Affirming Closet on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Men’s basketball looking to build on last year

By KYLE CHANDLER
Sports Editor
chandler01@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny men’s basketball team has a new face at the helm, but expectations are still high after making it to the Presidents’ Athletic Conference Championship a season ago. With the new season here, Head Coach Josh Clemens said he is ready for the opportunity.

“I’m very excited,” Clemens said. “Coming off a great season last year, we hope to continue that. It’s a strong group expecting to be pretty good.”

Clemens spent the last decade at Paul Smith’s College in New York. Working as a student-athlete, assistant and then head coach with the Bobcats, Clemens comes in with experience, and Athletic Director Bill Ross stated during a press release in late August that the college is fortunate to have a quality coach

lead the team this year.

Allegheny is off to a tough start, however, dropping their first game of the season against Fredonia 112-97. Leading the way for the Blue and Gold was Ryan Lang, ’26, with 20 points. Despite six Gators putting up double figures in the point department, the Blue Devils shot a marvelous 67.7% from the floor, including going 12-of-18 from deep to give them the edge.

If Allegheny wants to be successful this year, it will have to be without Caden Hinckley, ’23. The former All-PAC center inked a deal with A.S.D. Canusium Basket, a Serie C club under the umbrella of Federazione Italiana Pallacanestro, in Italy during the offseason. He was instrumental to both sides of the ball last year for the Gators, and was named the conference’s Defensive Player of the Year. But, the team is looking ahead to create something new for this campaign.

“We don’t need a superstar,” Clemens said. “Last year they had a great group of guys that was led by someone with the defensive capability of Caden. This year we’re going to ask to be by committee — it’s any given night.”

Despite losing one of their impact players, Allegheny is still bringing back loads of talent. Four of the five starters from the 2022-23 season will make their return, and the team is led by five seniors who have established a veteran presence in the locker room.

One of the upperclassmen includes Andre Wilder, ’24, who was named as an All-PAC player last year. Wilder burst onto the scene a year ago, becoming a regular starter. Averaging over 15 points and almost nine rebounds a game during his junior stint, Wilder’s rousing abilities helped account for the Gators to lead the PAC and represent the top 25 throughout all of Division III basketball in scoring.

In addition, they brought in another six-foot eight-inch talent in Zion Barksdale, ’27. A local product, Barksdale grew up in Meadville and attended Cathedral Prep High School off the corner of West 10th St. in Erie. While he is



Photo courtesy of Ed Mailliard

The Allegheny men’s basketball team for the 2023-24 season. still young, the rookie is looking to give a sprinkle of hometown magic to the team.

“One of the OG’s, I like to call them the old guys from Meadville, yesterday told me the neighborhood is behind me,” Barksdale said. “They’re rooting for me. It just means a lot to know that I have my city supporting me and I’m going to do whatever I can do.”

The first four contests of the year are on the road. Allegheny will head north this weekend to compete in the Hawks Against Hunger Tip-Off Tournament, before taking on Grove City in the Wolverines’ den on Nov. 15. Their first minutes of action in the friendly confines of James H. Mullen Jr. Arena will take place on Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. as

the Gators match wits and lock horns with the Bethany Bison.

Last year, Allegheny led the conference in attendance including during the playoff run they put together. One can expect the bedlam fans encompassed last year to be fruitful once again.

The culture of this team has been growing, and the tradition of winning that Allegheny has fostered throughout its history has come storming back with the groundwork laid down by former head coach Bob Simmons.

Clemens said that it is easy to have a good culture when the team is winning. His emphasis this year is how the Gators will handle the lows. Mistakes are a part of the

game, and making sure they do not compound in order to get back on good runs will be crucial.

The success Allegheny found a season ago has not been prevalent in recent times. The Gators put together its first 20-win season last year since the 1997-98 trial, and it was just their third season above the .500 marker this century.

The leaps and bounds of improvement showcased what this team is capable of. The overall picture is bright, and Allegheny has their sights set on one target.

“Our team goals haven’t changed much from last year,” Lang said. “We want to get back to the championship and get a win in that game.”

“Our team goals haven’t changed much from last year. We want to get back to the championship and get a win in that game.”

—RYAN LANG
Class of 2026



Photo courtesy of Ed Mailliard

Grove City invites Allegheny to join them in prayer before the two teams battle in the first round of the PAC playoffs.

Volleyball moves on in PAC Playoffs

By KYLE CHANDLER
Sports Editor
chandler01@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny women’s volleyball team took advantage of their home court playoff duel versus the Grove City Wolverines on Tuesday, Nov. 7, defeating their conference foe 3-1 in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference playoffs quarterfinal round.

The Gators got out to a quick 2-0 set advantage to put themselves in a favorable

position. From the get-go the Gators looked ready for post-season volleyball, scoring the first five points of the match including a pair of aces from Izzy Gray, ’26. The Allegheny lead grew to as much as 10 before closing out set one with a 25-18 victory.

In set two the Gators fell behind early, but battled back to gain a slight 10-8 advantage. Once having the lead they did not lose it and won by a score of 25-21.

Allegheny came out with

a vengeance after dropping the third set, and in their fourth go-around the Gators jumped on the Wolverines to get ahead 6-3. They then went on a 9-0 run to burst the game open and closed it out by winning 25-19, sealing the match victory.

The Gators next face the Bethany Bison on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m., after press time. If the Gators win, they will have a shot at taking home the PAC Championship on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Photos courtesy of Ed Mailliard

